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THE May number of The Furniture Gazette, the organ of the trade in Great Britain, has no less than three important articles calling attention to the enterprise of American manufacturers in different departments of industry in furniture and decoration. The first gives an account of the Wakefield Rattan Company, and the editor is fairly lost in admiration of the Yankee ingenuity which can make almost everything of rattan "except clothing and crockery." He says: "We may sleep on rattan beds, sit on rattan chairs, eat off rattan tables, and, possibly, walk on rattan carpets." This latter, we can tell him, is more than a possibility. It is already a fact. The Wakefield Rattan Company do make such carpets. "The American Trade in Paper-Hangings" is the subject of the next article. In it we are told that "the people of the United States spend \$8,000,000 per annum for wall-paper, their requirements being about 57,142,860 rolls, or 457,142,000 yards, which would be sufficient to girdle the earth at the equator and leave several hundred yards to spare." "American Machinery for Cabinet-Makers" is the title of the last of these articles, which warns British cabinet-makers that they must adopt the improved labor-saving machinery of this country if they wish to hold their own.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE FOR WOMEN'S WORK.

IT is just one year since the Women's Exchange, in East Twentieth Street, was opened with thirty articles for sale; the year's rent in the bank, and a fund in the treasury sufficient to pay contingent expenditures.

This latter sum was raised by subscriptions of five dollars by those who desired to join the society. Mrs. Wm. G. Choate was made president, Mrs. Wm. E. Dodge, Mrs. Y. N. Otis, Mrs. Henry Anderson, and Mrs. Jacob Wendell, were made vice-presidents, with a very efficient board of managers. The Exchange was intended in no way as an art society, or to conflict with the interests of the Decorative Art Society, but as a *depôt* for the industries of impoverished gentlewomen; and in various ways to assist ladies who desired to replenish their slender purses without making it known to the world. Work could be received that is attractive and yet not up to the standard of elegant needlework, and sold to persons of refined although not critical tastes. Better than all, perhaps, no publicity need attend this exchange of money for industry. During the year the receipts have been \$15,240.72, and \$10,252 has been paid to consignees. The expenditures for various matters have been \$3,664.32, and a balance remains of \$11,324. The subscription lasts but one year. Of the 17,566 articles registered for sale, only thirty-seven have been rejected.

A commission of ten per cent is charged on all articles sold. All articles are submitted to the approval of the managers; and none are received save through a manager or subscriber.

It is often asked what kind of work is received at the Exchange? It may be answered that almost every thing that is useful or beautiful that can be devised by the quick ingenuity of a woman's brain, from the darning of a stocking to the adornment of a plaque—every thing, indeed, save plain white needlework.

The rooms of the Exchange are over crowded with a vast assortment of elegant industries. There are carved ebony and embroidered screens, and two of satin delicately painted by hand; a variety of parterres of raw silk, cloth, and jute, done in appliqué and embroidered in Kensington stitchery, which are especially pretty for country houses; as there are rugs, mantel covers, and chair covers to match. Some half dozen rocking-chairs have embroidered upholstery that is quite unique, suitable for a boudoir, or bedchamber. Some charmingly carved ebony cabinets hang on the walls. One has three curtains of ruby silk embroidered with field flowers, and is surmounted with three pottery vases done in "scrafitto." The display of painted tiles is rather remarkable. Two painted porcelain cups and saucers attract special attention. One is pale green inside the cup, while the outside has traceries of vines, leaves, and sheafs of wheat entwined, and butterflies reaching around the cup and the rim of the saucer. The other has nearly the same designs in pale blue. There is a great variety of decorations on panels of wood, paper, glass, and gilt. Some are marvels of fine and delicate painting; two on gilt surfaces may be distinguished from the others as having designs of birds and blossoms, and one of autumnal golden rod and purple

asters. Of the plaques some are meritorious in design, particularly one bright in china blue. Half a dozen well-executed pictures in oil hang on the walls of the front room. Of the ornamental table covers, one of momie cloth embroidered in colored crewels, in what is known as the strawberry stitch, would pass any standard of ornamental needlework. The design is of the strawberry vine, strawberry leaves, the fruit and white blossoms intertwined. A sofa cushion is of bleached canvas with apple blossoms and leaves embroidered in colored flosses, and is finished at the edge with handsome lace. Painted silk fans, the new style—small and round, with long handles—as well as the old folded fans are in great numbers; also the delicately painted silk neck ornaments, and parasol covers. There is a great variety of embroidered table drapery, and toilette decorations of silk, satin and lace. In the window there are two specimens of stained glass, the work of a woman, and some painted marble stand and bureau tops. Some charming water colors must not be forgotten, or the dolls and playthings; not to mention the many useful articles. In a small case are some fine hand-made laces in various forms. The real interest of the rooms centres in a locked closet, or cabinet with glass doors. Here are a magnificent scarlet crape shawl, covered with embroidery; an altar cloth of white India muslin, embroidered in colored crewels, with designs of roses and leaves; a rich black round point-lace shawl; an opera cloak of ruby silk, embroidered in white floss; a Satsuma vase; a carved ivory card-case, etc. These articles belong to women who have seen better days, and who will sell them at great sacrifice. The same case has held rich goods from every part of the country, family heir-looms, old jewelry, rare laces, historical china, etc., and that have been sold at good prices. Every article had a "heart-history," and was sent with a request to dispose of as quickly as possible.

One table is devoted to the sale of preserved and spiced fruits, pickles, jellies, and homemade cake. The preserves and pickles come mainly from the South, where the ladies are famous for their cooking. In this department alone more than \$600 has been received during some five or six months. One large order for preserves was filled for Liverpool, England, last winter. It is an *order* business that is most earnestly desired, and orders can be given for almost every thing pertaining to the toilette; preserves, cake, or pickles; or house decorations, which will be promptly and thoroughly executed.

Were the stories told of the ladies who have come despairingly to this Exchange, or written from every State in the Union, as well as Mexico and Canada, they would fill a large volume.

The amount of good can hardly be measured which has already been done, and which can be done by this society. But new subscribers are needed, and gentlemen as well as ladies will be gladly received as coadjutors.

ELLEN E. DICKINSON.

Decorative Art Notes.

Pierre D. Van Hoesen, a New York night-watchman, has painted an apple on a disk of cardboard so naturally that at a short distance from the eye it has been mistaken for the fruit itself.

A "Middle Ages" café in the Latin quarter of Paris is fitted with hangings, wainscotings, screens, seats, and tables, all in mediæval style. Women waiters would not come into the scheme, so the viler sex, as in most cafés, are the attendants.

Something new for screens is a sheet of coarse canvas covered with gold leaf, on which is painted a suitable design in oil. The one we saw is bound with broad bands of maroon velvet, and is suspended from a brass rod. It is just the thing to cover an ugly door or to light up a dark corner of a room.

Miss Emmett, who, we are glad to know, is meeting with great success in china painting, has sent to the Decorative Art Society rooms a plaque on which she has painted in her best style the portrait of a lovely child. The composition of the picture is excellent, and the coloring is in those delicate Boughtonish tints with which this lady so loves to set her palette.

An exhibition of decorative work is about being opened in Brooklyn under the management of Mrs. McCullem, Mrs. Wayland Hoyt, and Mrs. James M. Hart, from the youthful class under the instruction of Miss de Golier, a New York artist. The Brooklyn students have been at work only since January last, the classes having originated from the Woman's Exchange, at No. 122 Atlantic Avenue, with which they are still associated. The class has been working exclusively from nature.

Some ingenious lady has covered a paper Japanese fan with a light corded silk, and has painted on it with rare fidelity characteristic Japanese designs; one side of the fan being divided diagonally, with one half tinted darker than the other and ingeniously stippled with silver paint or leaf. To any one at all clever in designing, this idea will suggest a variety of modifications.

The Ladies' Art Association has recently changed its location in Broadway to No. 24 West Fourteenth Street. Its plan for the instruction of children in art was undertaken some months since, and bids fair to have a useful result in the practical course of "training the eye to observe, the mind to conceive, and the hand to execute." In addition to two or three classes established at different localities in New York City, are others in Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Winchester, Massachusetts.

Amateur china painters living at a distance from an established kiln where they could have their work fired, should be grateful to Miss Nellie M. Ford, of Port Richmond, N. Y., for having invented a miniature kiln for firing small articles of decorated china in an ordinary kitchen stove or range. We have had it tested ourselves, and have also made inquiries at the rooms of the Society of Decorative Art as to the experience of those members who have used it, and in each case the result has been satisfactory.

Among the novelties in decorative art are dress pockets made to match the costumes with which they are worn. At the Decorative Art Society's rooms there is a white-satin pocket, decorated with a pretty design of tangled buttercups in golden yellow, and green for the leaves and stalks, worked in tent stitch. There is a work-bag of black satin decorated with a Flaxman design in oil colors. As those familiar with this class of painting will know, the surface upon which the color is to be laid must first be coated with a preparation of ox-gall, which will prevent the colors running. The bag is lined with old gold satin and has gilt cords.

Among the Dealers.

REFORM IN STOVE MANUFACTURE.—There is no other such hideous article of furniture as the ordinary sheet-iron stove, with its wretched conventional decorations of flowers and human faces, which are about as suitable to its dead black surface as fresco work on a hog-pen. It is to be hoped that before next winter some enterprising manufacturer will have the foresight to construct something better suited to the improved artistic taste of the community. People of taste will no longer tolerate the ungainly, comfortless iron cylinder that has hitherto dominated the home, and many have already returned to the old-fashioned fireplace, which can be ornamented with tiles and made cosy-looking with bright fender and andirons. The stove manufacturer who will recognize the expediency of engaging the services of a strictly first-class designer, whose work, by contrast, shall put to rout the old-fashioned "decorations"—which soon will be as obsolete as the old-time chintzes and wall-papers—will certainly make a fortune. In the mean while we are grateful to the Ansonia Brass and Copper Company for contributing their mite in the direction of stove reforms. Their corrugated stove platform, with its heavy figured ogee border, is a marked improvement on the sheet of zinc or copper upon which all stoves used to be placed; it requires no nailing to keep it in position or to prevent it curling at the edge, and the metal is thick enough to need no lining. The company have had much success from their experiment of nickel-plating sheet copper for stove-boilers or reservoirs (which keeps these vessels from tarnishing), and they think of also nickel-plating these stove platforms, which we hope they will find it will pay them to do. Another forward step taken by the Ansonia Brass and Copper Company is the invention of rests to be placed under the feet of the stove for the purpose of raising it from the floor or platform. These rests are about three quarters of an inch thick, and, being covered with highly-polished metal, are ornamental as well as useful.

Merely to look at the light, prettily-trimmed articles of furniture in the show windows of the Wakefield Rattan Company, in Broadway, is cooling to the senses this sultry weather. Nothing so suitable for summer use has been devised. Mr. George M. Dennis, treasurer of the company, a man of decidedly artistic tastes, is always thinking how some new article for use or ornament may be contrived out of this wonderfully yielding material. The bright Kurrachee rugs, which are used a good deal with rattan furniture, have a soft, velvety finish, and are very durable.

Even manufacturers of refrigerators find it necessary to conform to the general demand for the artistic in household furniture. Alexander M. Leslie, the maker of the "Zero," has them in black walnut and in ash in the Eastlake sideboard style, converting what was formerly a clumsy necessity into an article really of ornament.

Messrs. Davis Collamore & Co. have a few specimens of the Chelsea-Derby ware such as are described on another page. The demand for this kind of ware is likely to be large in the fall, and Mr. Collamore, who is about to sail for Europe, intends to make a point in selecting a fine collection to bring home with him.

Messrs. J. Marsching & Co., who lately removed from 48 John Street to more spacious offices at 21 Park Place, have a capital assortment of artists' materials and every requisite for china decoration.